

REMARKS

The objections to claims 11-13 and 16 has been addressed.

Allowable Claims 12, 13, 16 and 17 have been written as independent claims containing the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

The rejections of Claim 11 as being anticipated by Wirth et al. under 35 USC §102(e) and of Claim 14 as being unpatentable over Wirth et al. in view of Nakada under 35 USC §103(a) are traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Neither Wirth et al. nor Nakada, alone or even in hypothetical combination, teach or suggest the combination of features found in Claims 11 and 14, in particular a conduit with an air injection port having a cross-sectional area smaller than the total cross-sectional area of the air flow passage which is formed at the vicinity (e.g., the periphery or, the surrounding portion) of a single intake air valve. This swirling air flow stratifies the fuel at the periphery of the ignition plug. At an operational condition in this kind of arrangement when there is small air flow velocity, such as the starting time of the internal combustion engine, the swirling air flow necessary for forming the stratification in the cylinder cannot be generated. In this connection, Wirth et al do not suggest the claimed conduit and air injection port and does not form tumble air flow into the cylinder, to fully increase the air flow velocity of the air flow supplied into the cylinder.

The Nakada fuel injection control system is equally irrelevant to the claimed invention. That system is for an in-cylinder direct injection, spark-ignition internal combustion engine. No suggestion is given with regard to the claimed conduit and air injection port. Consequently, on that fuel injection control system, it is impossible to substantially increase the air flow velocity of the air flow supplied into the cylinder for generating the tumble flow necessary for stratification.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

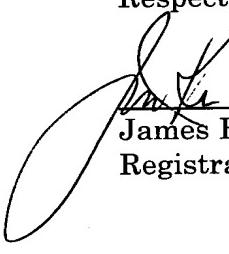
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

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Respectfully submitted,

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